THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Estimated employment in the Government, organised sector (including Government), unorganized sector and small scale industries during 1997-98,1998-99 and 1999-2000 is as given below:

(in lakh)

Sector J	Estimated Employment		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Government	107.11	107.71	107.33
Organised (including Government)	281.66	281.13	279.60
Unorganized	Not Available	Not Available	3690.00
Small Scale Industry	167.20	171.58	178.50

(b) As per the National Sample Survey estimates 13.9% and 33.2% of the total work force of 397 million were regular salaries and casual workers respectively during 1999-2000.

Modernization of EPF

† 989. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Trustees of the Employees Provident Fund has sanctioned a comprehensive plan for information-technology-based modernization of the Employees Provident Fund so that employees may settle their claims in any office of the Employees Provident Fund in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said plan is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Central Board of Trustees (Employees Provident Fund) has approved in October, 2002 a modernisation programme, which will enable the subscribers to access their accounts and file their claims from any of the EPF offices as against

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the present system which limit them only to one office, where they are registered. The system is proposed to be implemented all over the country in a phased manner. The timeframe for the scheme to become operational cannot be indicated at this stage.

Children in hazardous occupations

990. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the occupations and industrial processes listed as hazardous for employment of children;

(b) the number of children below the age of 14 engaged therein, in various States, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the number and names of employers prosecuted in Andhra Pradesh under Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act; and

(d) the number of Child Labour rehabilitated in Andhra Pradesh under various rehabilitation schemes of the Centre including the scheme of National Child Labour Projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) As per the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act 1986, employment of children below the age of 14 years is prohibited in 13 Occupations and 57 Processes listed under the Schedule of the Act. A copy of the Schedule is given in Annexure *[see* Appendix 197 Annexure No. 9]

(b) Authentic information on child labour is generated during the decennial census. According to the latest available information as per the 1991 census, the estimated number of working children in the country was 11.28 million. State-wise details are given in Statement (see below).

(c) As per the information received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, 12,533 child labourers were released and 5082 employers were prosecuted by the Labour Department of employing child labourers during 2002-03.

(d) According to the State Govt, of Andhra Pradesh, under District Primary Education Project, 406 residential bridge course centres and 5130